

# HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper



Photo: David Hoffman

## GREENHAM COMES TO HACKNEY

The twenty-ninth of February, as everyone knows, is traditionally the day on which women can propose to men. The message which a group of Hackney women, camped outside the Town Hall on that day, had for men was quite different. It was "Send cruise back to the US and remove this menace from here".

The twentyfour hour camp was organised by a group of Hackney Greenham women, with the full support and encouragement of Hackney Council. The women erected three 'benders' - wigwams like those used at Greenham. Many women stayed all day, eating a picnic lunch, playing music and with a nurse group joining in. A smaller number stayed to cook their supper over a camp fire and slept overnight.

The site made an excellent centre for passers-by to stop and discuss their attitudes to cruise and the threat it poses. A spokeswoman said how encouraged and delighted they were by the general interest and support the camp aroused. There were many who lacked the opportunity to go to Greenham themselves, but were nevertheless deeply concerned about this new threat and supported the Greenham women in their aims. "Almost everyone was really friendly," she said, "it made us realise that an issue like this really is relevant to Hackney. We felt that some might see us as an imposition, but this was not so. When you realise how many billions of pounds go on weapons, and then look at the needs

of a place like Hackney, the waste of money becomes doubly appalling".

### READY TO ACT

Although cruise has arrived in this country, despite all the efforts of thousands of women, it is still not fully operational: none of the weapons have as yet been outside the gates of the camp. The Hackney camp was just one of a nationwide series of such events planned to show that women are ready and prepared, all over the country, for when cruise tries to come out.

"The government ought to realise", said the spokeswoman, "that we are not going to give up. Women are more determined than ever that we will free the country of cruise."

## 15% RATES RISE: fight next year

After the scares and the threats comes the news that Hackney's rate rise this year will be about 15 per cent. And there will be no increases in council tenants' rents, and no cuts in existing services and jobs.

It has been possible to keep the rise down to this sort of figure because of a combination of circumstances. The GLC has agreed a package of between £5 and £10 million, as part of its aid to stressed boroughs in the London area. The GLC's own precept, collected by Hackney Council on its behalf is also falling. And there has been the customary mixture of "creative" accounting by transferring spending from year to year and in and out of the council's balances.

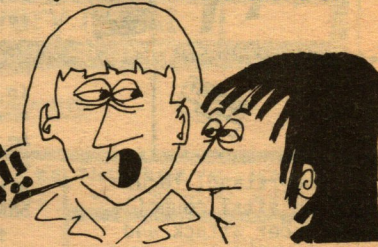
The much feared Service Review Boards, which many

of the St John's Area base.

What about the big fight with the Government? "This year was going to be the Big One," one councillor told HPP. "But now it's going to be next year. The trajectory is definitely towards confrontation with the Government." This has obviously been a decision taken by a number of the Labour controlled big-spending councils. Liverpool may go it alone this year by setting an illegal budget, but it is plain that it will probably be fighting on its own.

If it is true that next year the major struggle will occur then a different process of consultation will have to be adopted. The council's attempt to get local people involved in the rate-fixing debate this year was little short of

IN HACKNEY,  
ON A CLEAR DAY  
THEY SAY YOU CAN  
SEE LIVERPOOL  
FROM THE  
TOWN HALL  
STEPS!!



London Labour Briefing

thought were the prelude to real cuts in council expenditure, have in fact come up with only minor recommendations. However cuts have been made in future growth, a familiar story from year to year.

The major battle yet unresolved as this issue goes to press is that of council rents. The Government has decreed that these should rise by an average 75p per week. Early council budgets talked alarmingly about possible rise of up to £2 per week. But the council is likely to over rule what the officers - notably the Director of Finance - want and keep rents at the same figure as last year. It is recognised that services to tenants are appalling, and it would be unacceptable to put rents up at all while new plans to improve services are being discussed following the occupation

pathetic. It was done in a great rush, with very little publicity arranged.

London Labour Briefing and the councillors and Labour Party members who support the national Briefing network are calling for a national campaign, centrally organised with the trade unions, to defeat the present system, and the proposals for rate-capping which will be law by next year. They will be demanding a campaign involving the whole Labour Party, inside and outside Parliament, and the TUC. Fighting at the local level, they say, gives the best framework for such a national campaign.

Next year, the GLC may not be around to hand over money to stressed boroughs. The big fight will come. How will a "radical, socialist" borough like Hackney organise to get the people on its side? Only time will tell.

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# Bums are alright

Dear HPP,

Whoever wrote the unsigned article in your February issue criticising the Council's advertising campaign on the cuts seems to be more interested in trendy lefty middle class sensibilities than popular political appeal.

The critique of the first set of posters seems to be based on the fact that the spelling 'alright' does not correspond to that in the Oxford English Dictionary. You would think that a local newspaper would realise that 'alright' is common slang among local people but then it is not surprising that the author finds the use of slang distasteful given the patronising and pompous pronouncements that litter the rest of the article.

You go on to say that the poster is muddled but give no explanation. In fact, the poster's message is short, sharp and to the point. It is a 'teaser' start to a whole series of posters which



## letters

is your own peculiar logic. The logo 'Hackney - Britain's poorest borough' is criticised for being used on all publicity. Yet everyone knows that that is precisely the purpose of a logo - to stamp the identity of a campaign on all of its components. You say it is unlikely to 'guilt trip' the Government into handing more cash over to the borough. Obviously the council doesn't expect the Government to quake in its jackboots at the sight of a single slogan but the sentiment HAS prompted more widespread media coverage of Hackney's plight than any other anti-cuts campaign.

When HPP CAN claim a wider readership than the Hackney Community Action mailing list perhaps you will be in a safer position to put forward such an inane and illogical critique.

By the way, to what brand of 'correct English' does the term 'guilt trip' correspond?

Yours,

T. Bankhead

*HPP's patronising, pompous, self-styled political mentor replies:*

I am glad that Ms Bankhead finds the Hackney Council poster series the most effective piece of political advertising since the Saatchi massacre of the opposition. She must be the only person in Hackney who actually thinks that. Everyone else seems to be of the opinion that they are the most toe-curling ads since Freddie Barrett gave up bawling on the radio.

The point about advertising is not whether it gets noticed or not, but whether it promotes what you want to say. And this the Council has failed to do. So, for that matter, has the Save Hackney campaign, which merely, as Ms Bankhead points out, asks the question, "Save Hackney from what?"

As for the logo, "Hackney - Britain's poorest borough" it is, of course, quite correct to say that the point of a logo is to identify a campaign by stamping it on all its components. What I was questioning was the choice of the words on this particular logo, especially as I understand that the slogan was chosen without being discussed with more than very few councillors.

What we have seen is a campaign which has, in effect, wasted a quite substantial amount of public money. Money that could have been spent planning and paying for a bigger, better and politically more powerful message. Prime sites in Trafalgar Square do not come cheap: what a pity to waste them with a poster that is only the subject of jibes in the Tory press.

# Town Hall charade

Dear HPP,

I read with interest your concern for "Democracy"; two items in HPP, Clapton Youth Centre and London Lane Shoes. I am sure you will also be informing your readers of the strange goings on at the Town Hall.

The last January council meeting was FARCICAL. The debate opened-up with three deputations. One from tenants of Scriven Court, E8 on the installation of central heating, with the poor chair of housing services John Bloom bumbling and fumbling along being it seems, totally "unbriefed" on the subject and having to depart with the members of the deputation for a "sub-council" meeting.

And all before one word has been uttered on Council Business: "Radiation Hazards from Sellafield Reprocessing plant in Cumbria" (Not in Hackney!) etc; the usual rent-a-mouths of the Left scientist against Nuclear Arms brought the meeting to a halt. Our Mayor, rather than have the demonstrators removed from the public gallery, which is the usual treatment for right wing groups by calling the police, the meeting was closed. The minutes were passed en bloc, with councillors standing around in the away gear!

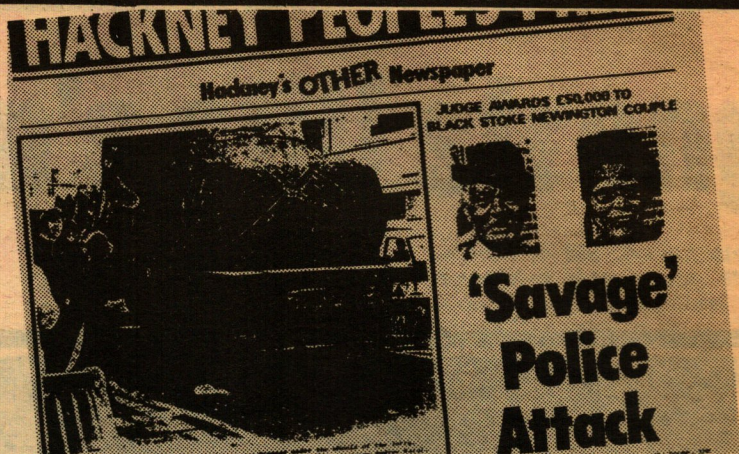
Just imagine item 524, £11 million expenditure on inner city partnership passed with one third of the councillors still drinking their coffee, one third in the "Bog" and one third in the chamber, including the chair of the Police Committee, Brynley Heaven standing in his overcoat clutching his carrier bag complete with the "Save Hackney" campaign leaflet.

What is a mere £20 million cut when before 1p is spent on social welfare, £65 million has to be found for bankers interest against the boroughs debt, along with £28 million for ILEA? Over £90 million and not one meal on wheel purchased for the elderly.

Then follows an addition to this charade. At the Social Services Committee meeting of Feb 1st, when the same council employee's with their megaphone cheer leader shouting down from the public gallery and disrupting the meeting. Then total confusion in the ranks of Labour! Councillor Kodikara, chair of Social Services, not usually known for having demonstrators evicted when they are of HIS support organisation called in the police. Not so says Councillor Kahn, deputy leader, remove the police, not the demonstrators! All very much like Alice in Wonderland.

I am sure with your editorial staffs great concern to Save Hackney in 1984 you will find the shambles at the fountainhead interesting. That is of course if you report local items without fear or favour!?!?

yours sincerely,  
John Hooper.



# 8 years late

A mere seven years after Mr and Mrs White were brutally beaten up by the police from Stoke Newington police station, Scotland Yard has offered them a 'sincere apology'.

The couple suffered multiple injuries when, in September 1976, 17 policemen invaded their Stoke Newington home one night without a search warrant.

Mr David White and his wife, Lucille, were awarded £51,000 damages in the High Court two years ago. The judge, Mr Justice Mars-Jones, said that they had been subjected to a 'catalogue of violence and inhuman treatment' and accused the police of a five year cover-up of their brutal and savage assaults.

What has happened over the past two years? Scotland Yard did send papers to the Director of Public Prosecutions but he did not act because the time which had passed since the assault was too long. So an internal police inquiry was held,

leading to disciplinary hearings against four officers (what, one wonders, became of the other thirteen) Of these, only one has been punished - for using 'unnecessary violence' - and had to pay a fine. The other three were found not guilty.

Scotland Yard refused to name the officers or describe the punishment reportedly meted out.

A personal letter, signed by the Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner, Albert Laughton, was delivered to the couple 'offering sincere apologies and regret to Mr David White and his wife, Lucille, for the improper way police dealt with them in the incident'.

According to the judge, the police had unsuccessfully brought assault charges against the couple in order to escape the consequences of their own actions. "That was a monstrously wicked thing to do", he said.

# NEW ART GROUP FORMATIONS

Last month Free Form Arts Trust Ltd put out a leaflet countering what they claim to be 'misleading and inaccurate circulars being sent out by Cultural Partnerships Ltd,' the new group formed by the majority of workers who split away from the old Free Form.

In the 'Free Form Fightback' leaflet they reject the claim that they sacked 12 workers, saying that they only accepted their resignations. But one of the workers insisting that they were sacked said to HPP 'How else are you to interpret being told that you are no longer required and wont be receiving any further payment?'

Free Form reject the view that they were undemocratic. They say that two different views had arisen as to how things should operate. The result was the recent dispute with conflicting statements being made by both sides.

So now we have two groups emerging from the old Free Form. Those remaining at Free Form will be concentrating on environmental issues while the new organisation Cultural Partnerships is expected to give more emphasis to the media and communications.

HPP doesn't want to dwell on the differences and counter claims that are circulating. Instead we invite both groups to keep us informed about their future plans so that we can keep you in touch with the positive side of Hackney's community arts scene.

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will, I understand, focus directly on vital council services under attack and urge people to join in the campaign against Government cuts.

What our self-styled political mentor fails miserably to understand is that the vast majority of people do not readily respond to hectoring propaganda which screams meaningless commands such as 'Save Hackney!' (from what? Martians?). That is why the first of the campaign posters aimed simply to make people NOTICE that there is a campaign at all and not even HPP (or even the whole of Fleet Street) could argue with the success of that aim.

The 'bum' poster may have offended a tiny minority of people but you can rest assured that the vast majority of local people who, thank god, have a sense of humour, have got the message about the bum deal we're all getting without being subjected to a lecture on political theory. Fortunately the council publicity officer who was born and bred in Hackney has a better understanding of what local people think than you.

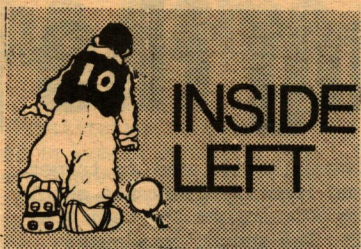
If anything is muddled it



If there are historians around in fifty years (and with our lives in the hands of Reagan, Thatcher and Chernenko, who's to say any of us will be) they might like to write the odd thesis or two about the political goings on in Hackney circa 1984. Consider this possible question for a university final exam: "Was Hackney Britain's poorest borough or a radical, socialist borough?" Or for a CSE: "What was the name of the political party with two hundred MPs and a ten thousand councillors which was abolished in 1986 because it was against the national interest?"

These will probably be considered very difficult questions. Especially as now the Labour Party in Hackney seems to be engaged in one of its periodic fits of revolving faster and faster in ever decreasing circles until it drops apart in confusion. For instance, last month the Council issued leaflets asking people's views about the rate rise for this year and putting its position. They were sent to ward Labour Party branches to shove them through people's letterboxes - and in some wards the branches distributed their own leaflets at the same time urging the masses to rise in spontaneous revolt against the Council's position.

Then consider also the bold promises made by the new brooms when they swept to power in the coup of 1982. Decentralisation, equal opportunities, freedom of information, local democracy... nearly all of these are now back on the shelf, in a file marked "Too Difficult". What we get nowadays is mindless advertising campaigns, attempts to woo the House of Lords, public consultation exercises that are deemed to be successful when a few dozen people attend, a



willingness to circumvent the democratic process by letting council business go through meetings en bloc and lots of shouting at the hapless Liberals. Is this the Brave New World we were promised? These thoughts and many more may well go through the mind of our long-distance-running leader as he pounds the streets of Upper Clapton. Being in local government these days must sometimes feel as though you run 26 miles in one direction and then get told to run 26 miles back again, with your legs tied together and lead weights on your back. One must have sympathy. But one must demand action.

What is missing is popular campaigning. Gestures are made to "getting the community involved" but these are usually channelled through the professional left and umbrella groups, such as Hackney Community Action and the Save Hackney Campaign. A broader style of campaigning would not mean that every dot and comma of policy would have to be agreed by Labour group before it started. It needs a different approach.

We only have to look across London to the even more threatened GLC to see how a popular campaign could be fought. Undoubtedly the greatest beneficiary of Thatcherism has been the SE1 office of the GPO. The GLC relies on sending massive numbers of mailshots to nearly everyone in London.

## Fine frenzy

Its material is well-produced, simple and informative. It is geared to raising popular consciousness about GLC policies and what the GLC does. Thus the vast majority of people agree a London-wide authority is essential, that public transport should be subsidised by the rates, that racism should be eradicated and that inner London education needs special provision. By contrast, every single piece of Hackney's propaganda is either designed to make the borough's residents cringe or seems to argue the special case for Hackney getting more money, at the expense of other boroughs in similar circumstances.

So instead of seizing on an issue which could be popular, such as the occupation of the St John's area base by the workforce and tenants, and using that as a springboard for positive decisions to clear corruption out of the DLO and give the tenants the service they pay for in their rents, the leadership's response has been, once again, "keep it internal". Let's have an enquiry, sure, but you have to understand that these things take time. You want an enquiry in the open? Yes, but let our surveyor look at all the figures first. You want to discuss how tenants and workers together can plan local services? Yes, but we're already doing this through the proper channels

in the decentralisation working group. And so on, and so on.

Add to this the current vogue for attracting what the national press refers to now as banana skins, such as the disruption of council meetings. The answer to this is not to attempt to nod through the business of the meeting after deals have been done with the Tories. It opens up the Labour group to all kinds of accusations ranging from sharp practice to Stalinism, such as those which were legitimately frequently levelled at the old guard administration before 1982.

Many of the banana skins seemed to be tossed in the leadership's direction by Gery Lawless. His attempts to stir up anti-traveller hysteria and wild accusations about sherry parties display few principles and much paranoia.

And lurking behind the leadership all the time these days is the Napoleonic figure of the exiled ex-leader John Kotz. Relations between him and Anthony Kendall are about as abysmal as between Edward Heath and Margaret Thatcher, and for much the same reasons.

To compound the feeling that Hackney's administration is running fast and getting nowhere comes the rumour that the latest stunt from the publicity department for the Britain's poorest borough campaign is to be a Chas and Dave concert. The idea is presumably to get Mrs Thatcher overwhelmed by the shouts of raucous Cockney bonhomie drifting towards Downing Street from Stoke Newington Town Hall. Or perhaps it's to get us all bopping so fast to their noisiest hits medley that we all drop down dead. And that would solve everyone's problems.

## SHORT NEWS

### Tory twit

Dame Shelagh Roberts, conservative Euro MP, has been criticising Alf Lomas, London North East's member of the European parliament, for his protests about the French authorities not allowing black British citizens into France. As a guide to Conservative thinking (?) and street-credibility it is worth noting that while Alf Lomas is concerned about black citizens 'enjoying themselves in France', Dame Shelagh thinks that they should be able to think of 'doing business in the EEC', 'even investing in an enterprise' and 'talking to a French businessman over a beer or glass of Pernod, and interesting him in the little business they are starting up in London'. Say no more.

### Elvis gets votes!



Hackney's very own Sid Shaw made a brave stand against Tony Benn and others in the Chesterfield by-election, representing the Elvisly Yours Elvis Presley Party. He finished 13th out of 17 in the poll, with a pretty good 20 votes.

Sid is known for having set up the Elvisly Yours Centre in Shoreditch High Street in Jan. 1983, to which visitors from all over the world come, to see and buy souvenirs or to talk about their favourite idol. The centre has also organised several social activities for Elvis fans, for instance, 700 turned up for the commemorative birthday party of "Old Snake Hips" in Jan. 1984.

Of course, HPP sends belated good wishes to the only local candidate, especially against such distinguished rivals as Screaming Lord Sutch, and the Official Candidate for the National Acne Party--"Acne" looming large in more than one sense at Chesterfield!

### Nurseries

An association of Hackney's community nurseries has recently been formed, to provide a forum for the seven local nurseries for discussion, negotiation with funding bodies and to develop new nurseries in Hackney and further afield. Since the first community nursery in Hackney was set up in 1973 the idea has spread. All seven are now founder members of the Association. These are Rainbow, Market, Oranges and Lemons, Beatty, 136, Fire Station and Defoe. All are run by management committees of parents, staff and members of the local community. The Association can be contacted c/o 136 Nursery, Metropolitan Hospital Nurses Home, Enfield Road, N.1.

## Cruise bikers ride free

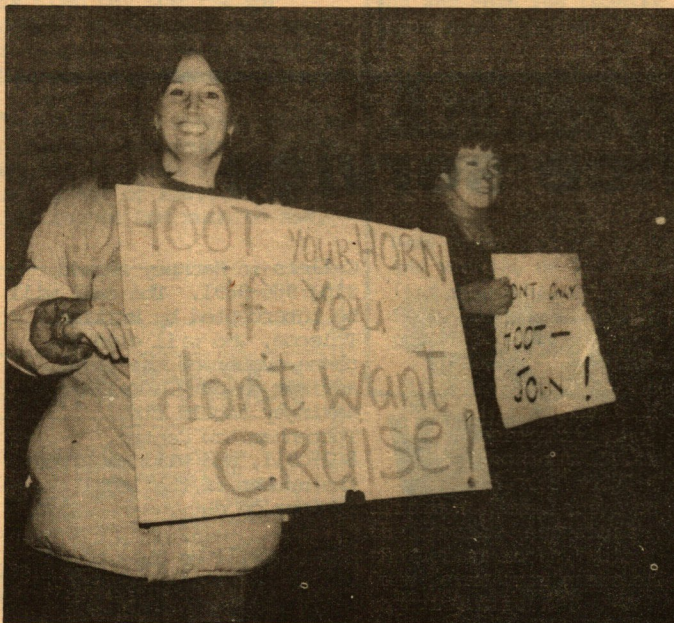
Just one week after the arrival of cruise, 23 November, 150 cyclists rolled into Parliament Square. We came individually or with friends, in large and small groups, on every type of bike, even a unicycle. The only trouble was that hundreds of police were there too! A group of moving cyclists has a lot in its favour. Some of us flashed past helpless police officers while others followed directions only to regroup and approach by another route.

There was chaos as police stopped motor traffic and cyclists tried every trick they could to get into Parliament Square. All the while, van loads of police were chasing groups of cyclists around the West End.

Forty-four of us (plus bikes) ended the evening locked in police cells, and although this was the first time many of us had been arrested, in retrospect it seemed inevitable. It seemed the natural progression since cruise had arrived. There were moments when it was hard to take it all seriously as some police

officers were confused about what to do next (especially with the bikes). It was a battle of wills at the police station: they had their bureaucratic processing procedure but from the cells peace songs were ringing out and friends called to friends in other cells. Far from breaking us up, the police action forged bonds between strangers.

A few weeks later we all faced the same charges in court: wilfully obstructing a police officer; wilfully obstructing the highway; being in breach of the sessional order of Parliament. These were the charges they used as an excuse for breaking up a legitimate protest. Consequently they had to invent evidence to support their case. It was incredible to hear an unrecognisable account of what had happened - and a all under oath! But with the help of our committed barristers the police evidence fell apart. In one case for example, the magistrate accepted a submission from the defence that a group of moving cyclists was not an obstruction when other traffic



Local protestors campaigning against Cruise missiles.

could pass. He said that the police had not shown that they had warned the person they later arrested or even that a group of milling cyclists constitutes an assembly or procession. As this article is written, the courts have upheld only one out of a total of 33 charges (eleven defendants - the rest have their cases coming up).

The court system has lost its mystery having been through it once. We are better prepared to take the

next step, which might mean choosing prison for some of us. We hope it doesn't come to this because when it comes to protests, we know that bikes offer an advantage: they are not individually too conspicuous. Thanks to the over-reaction of the police, a new network of experienced protestors remains in contact, planning the next demonstration.

Sheila Webb  
Bill Fahy  
Local CND members





## New Trojan press

Trojan Press's new printing press swinging into their Bradbury Street premises last month - a great day for the co-op.

Trojan are delighted with their new £10,000 press - a Rotaprint Delta 3550. With it they can produce full colour printing of a high quality on a wide range of paper and card. "The definition is superb," said one member of the co-op.

The purchase of the new press is just one indication of how successful Trojan have become in recent months. Since moving to Bradbury Street in May last year Trojan have doubled their turnover. With the new press the co-op expects to double it again in the next few months.

Trojan are also planning to invest heavily in new facilities for their darkroom, including a new process camera.

# Hounding the poor

If you've heard of the DHSS' Specialist Claims Control Unit, then the goings on of the Regional Benefit Investigation Teams (RBITs) will come of no surprise to you. RBITs are small teams of investigators who travel around each Unemployment Benefit Office in turn. They interview and follow claimants and 'encourage' them to sign off.

The Department of Employment confirmed in a recent newspaper report that RBIT staff may be trained at police colleges. The DoE approached colleges to set up fraud investigation courses. The Department wants to give RBIT members a new style of professional training with lectures from police officers.

In their latest guidelines investigators are warned not to seek publicity about their activities. Most of the

investigative work to target and identify claimants should be done before the team goes in. The report continues: "(This) does not mean that conclusive evidence is essential. It can be quite enough to confront a claimant with some suspicions formed from a few quick enquiries... They should in the main avoid time-consuming and costly investigations likely to be detrimental to the exercise's overall effectiveness."

### Suspicious

So they won't necessarily be looking for any evidence or suspicious behaviour - in some recent RBIT visits the claimant's previous occupation or even age was enough to make them suspicious. They concentrate on single parents, women and other people with certain types of occupation who they think could easily be working.

The objectives of the Regional Benefit Investigation Teams are not simply to reduce fraud. They aim to reduce the number of people who sign on - the innocent will be intimidated and harassed off the register; the system is designed not to look for evidence and prosecution but to be cost-effective. If they really want to cut down on fraud, what about tax fraud? At the moment the government ignores major tax fraud and deliberately promotes the idea that all unemployed people are scroungers.

The Hackney Centre for the Unemployed, soon to move to new premises at 485 Kingsland High Street, will be keeping an eye on RBIT activity. When they find out that the RBIT is coming to Hackney, they will leaflet Dole Offices to let claimants know what to do.

## CENTRE FOR BLACK WOMEN

A centre for Black women to meet socially, relax and enjoy themselves, take part in different activities or discuss any problems they may have, is now in being in Mare Street.

All black women are welcome there, whether they are students, single parents, professional women, married or unemployed, and whatever their age may be.

The centre gives advice on housing, social security,

policing, immigration, adult education and further education.

In the future the centre will be setting a number of activities up, such as evening classes, photography, African and black dancing, campaigning for women's rights, support for children (especially those in one-parent families) and mother and toddlers groups.

The approach of the group in all issues is

non-racist, and it co-operates with other women's groups and voluntary organisations. The centre is keen to hear from women in similar groups within or outside the borough to arrange joint activities, share facilities and so on.

There is one full-time worker and two part-time ones. The centre is at 251a Mare Street, E8.

## New law advice service

Arrested?  
Threatened with deportation?  
Evicted?  
Helping Police with their enquiries?  
Afraid of violence at home?  
There are all kinds of emergencies which require some kind of legal aid and which people cannot foresee.

Hackney residents facing an unexpected legal emergency in the evenings or at weekends now have access to their own out-of-hours legal advisory service...Free!

On January 16th a new out-of-office hours emergency legal service was launched by Hackney Law Centre and Hackney Legal Action Group, in conjunction with Tottenham Neighbourhood Law Centre and Haringey Independent Police Committee.

The service has been created by merging the existing weekend emergency services run by Hackney LAG and Tottenham Law Centre. The new service



will operate on weekday evenings from 6pm onwards, and throughout weekends, for residents of Haringey and Hackney.

Callers in Hackney should ring 986-9891. The call will be intercepted by British Telecom, who will give the phone number of the legal adviser on duty. Callers in Haringey should ring Tottenham Law Centre, 802-0911, and will be given the number of the legal adviser on duty.

Callers will be able to get advice on legal enquiries such as arrest, eviction, threatened deportation, or domestic disputes. In appropriate cases, the caller may be put in touch with a solicitor who is able to take up the matter immediately.

Jim Driscoll, Chair of Hackney Law Centre's management committee commented on the new service: "Given the increasing pressures facing the people of Hackney, we consider it vital to expand the emergency service so that people can obtain legal advice at times when advice agencies and solicitors' offices are closed."

HACKNEY LAG & LAW CENTRE

in trouble!!

**ARRESTED EVICTED?**

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24HRS



# Rules of the game

There will be mixed reactions to the news that there will be a vice-unit of a Chief inspector, three sergeants and sixteen constables operating in the Queens Drive area. This news which was in the Finsbury Parker, Feb issue is welcomed by them, which goes on to say "local residents are anxious that the unit should not be reduced in size or scope of its activities before the summer weather comes."

The truth of the matter is rather different, not all local residents will welcome this, indeed the only people who will be welcome this will be the residents association which consists largely of white, middle class, qualified residents, owning their own homes.

Indeed it will be obvious to all that the prostitutes will not welcome this, nor will other citizens in an area where relations with the police have degenerated to open mistrust.

One only has to go around the area at about 2 in the morning (when most of the residents associations upstanding Burgers are in bed) to realise that policing is at saturation level. The introduction of 20 more police is quite frankly provocative and will lead to more harassment in general and of black people in particular.

Prostitution is nothing new in Queens Drive, it has been there as long as anyone can remember and of course the question begs itself, why all the fuss in the last five years over it? The answer to this is not unconnected with the rise in property prices in Islington and the over-spill of the professional classes into Stoke Newington. Having bought their houses in Queens Drive, they then found out that it was a red light area, this immediately knocked thousands off the value of the house in their eyes and they set about getting rid of the prostitutes and achieving a rise in property prices.

A rise in property prices might be all well and good for the property owners, but for rent payers this will not be a good thing. It will limit the amount of rented accommodation available as landlords convert their houses into flats to be sold rather than let (indeed this is already happening), it will make it more expensive for the council to build as they have to pay market prices for their property.

And in the end it will force out the local people: it will no longer be a cockney manor. If you think this is far fetched then take a look at Liverpool Road, which 20 years ago was exactly the same as Queens Drive is now.

# Threat to centre

With Partnership funding coming to an end, many local groups providing important services to the community face a severe financial crisis which may force them to close down. One such example is the Huddleston Centre.

It occupies the back half of St James the Great Church in Lower Clapton, which was skilfully converted in 1980 into a family centre for handicapped people and those with special needs.

The Huddleston Centre is run by Handicapped Children in Hackney and it is in use everyday, especially during school holidays. There are playgroups, classes in carpentry, swimming, cookery etc., a toy library three mornings a week, music and dancing, meetings and seminars clubs for all ages and many types of handicaps.

It is a place where parents of handicapped children can come for advice, practical help and contact with other parents. Non-handicapped brothers and sisters are welcome too. And because children grow up the Huddleston Centre has been expanding its activities to include teenagers and adults so they can realise their full potential.

The Centre's five year Partnership grant ran out in September 1983. The Government say they will only pay 25% now and that after March 1985 they won't promise anything at all. Hackney Council is paying the other 75% from October 1983 to March 1984, but have not yet decided whether they can pay the 75% for 1984/5. The Council are keen to help, but face a financial crisis themselves.

The Huddleston Centre provides a valuable community service, and all it needs for 1984/5 is a grant of £26,000. Surely this is not too much to ask.

# ATTACK HEART DISEASE

Every week, 4 people under 65 years of age die from a heart attack or stroke in Hackney.

Britain has the highest rates of heart disease in the world, and Hackney rates are comparable with the rest of the country.

While 4 die, every day 187 of the district's acute hospital beds are occupied by people suffering from these diseases. Many of them will be disabled for the rest of their lives.

In addition, many more in the community are not able to enjoy life to the full because they suffer from illnesses such as angina and high blood pressure. The majority of these deaths and illnesses can be prevented.

Hackney Heart Disease Prevention Programme started on Valentines Day, February 14. Twice weekly prevention clinics are now being held at Shoreditch Health Clinic, 210 Kingsland Road, E2. For more information, ring 253 2868

ADVERTISEMENT

# TROJAN PRESS

## Test Match Special



## GREAT BEATNIKS no. 2



## FAMOUS BOZOS No.3 CATHY'S CLOWN



NEW BIFF POSTERS  
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# HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's OTHER Newspaper

## HPP NEEDS YOU!

It seems odd, during an age of mass unemployment, for a volunteer community newspaper to be suffering a personpower shortage, but that is the situation facing us at HPP.

People often have a romanticised idea of

of what it is like to work on a paper.

In answer to these problems, HPP is organising 2 skills workshops for spring.

SITUATIONS VACANT AT RADICAL PAPER

Hackney's favourite alternative newspaper is run as an open volunteer collective. HPP aims to bring people in Hackney together.

What we do is not difficult. We plan and write HPP in spare hours and lay it out over a weekend. Why not come and join us?

## Learn a new skill

The two meetings will cover Journalism and Design and will feature contributions from local experts with newspaper skills. They will take place at Centerprise, 136 Kingland High Street, at 2.30 on Saturday afternoons.

31 March

David Seymour  
(of the Daily Mirror)  
on JOURNALISM.

28 April

Vickie Lukens  
& Andrew Haig  
on DESIGN.

# FIGHT FOR SYRIAN RIGHTS

Members of the Islington and Hackney group of Amnesty International joined many Amnesty members from all over Britain outside the Syrian embassy in Belgrave Square on Friday, 10 February. They presented a series of petitions on behalf of Syrian prisoners for whom Amnesty groups up and down the country have been working.

respond to repeated requests to provide information on his whereabouts and well-being.

Syria has one of the worst human rights records of any country in the world. Its continuous war with Israel since 1946 has been accompanied by serious conflict at home. The Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party, which came to power in 1963, through a military coup, now governs a 'coalition' of other parties in which it has a built-in majority. Since 1980 internal repression of political opposition has become particularly virulent and emergency legislation has suspended the normal guarantees of the rights of citizens under the Constitution.

## Amnesty International

Local Amnesty workers have been writing letters and working on behalf of Tawfiq Zalkha, a student from Latakia. The Syrian government has failed to

# VSO LINKS

Islington is to play host to the Voluntary Service Overseas information campaign centred on North-east London over 9-10 March, from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm, when VSO staff and local group members gather in an Upper Street shop to meet any Londoners interested in working in the Third World with VSO.

An exhibition of VSO's work overseas will be set up in 135 Upper Street, just a few paces away from the Kings Head pub, and videos on the wide variety of work volunteers do will be screened. It is an ideal opportunity for anyone interested in VSO to have their questions answered, and returned

volunteers can give a personal insight into life as a volunteer.

There are currently over 80 volunteers from London working overseas with VSO ranging from a vehicle maintenance mechanic in the Maldives to an entomologist in Kenya, and they work within local communities for two years, sharing their skills with over forty countries throughout Asia, Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean. Many more are needed to fly out to projects during this year, and their skills need to be in education, technology, health, commerce, community work and agriculture.

VSO can be contacted on 235 5191.



## Pub of the Month

# KNOCK OUT?



This month we look into the newly refurbished Queensberry Rules public house at 2 St Jude Street, N16. It may be more familiar to you under its old name, The Railway, and when we visited, the old pub sign remained hanging along with the new name painted above the door.

Although on the Hackney-Islington border, this pub is only a few moments walk away from Kingsland High Street. Walk down Bradbury Street (opposite Ridley Road), continue on into St Jude Street until just before King Henry's Walk and you've arrived.

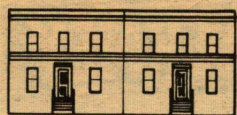
We entered with trepidation fearing yet another tarting-up/destruction of a good basic boozer. Inside it all seemed very pleasant. Having got to the bar without collapsing from shock we began to wonder what had changed. Yes, it looked smarter, but what had been changed? We racked our brains, and realised that our memories were clouded by many excellent pints of Shepherd Neame bitter during previous sessions. The lighting seemed dimmer, the carpet and seating plusher and various pictures of boxers had appeared. Thinks: there is some connection between Queensberry Rules and boxing but as HPP's sports desk is even more short-staffed than the other departments, we are not too sure what it is.

What we can tell you is that the beer is still Shepherd Neame (from Kent), with two real ales on offer plus keg beers and Hurlimann lager at 88p a pint, one of the better, if not better-known English-brewed lagers. The master brew bitter on our Sunday lunch-time visit seemed thin and uncharacteristically bland for Shepherds but the Best Bitter at 76p a pint was distinctively bitter and as enjoyable as ever. Maybe not to everyone's taste, but a drink that rewards acquiring the habit. Among the spirits selection, Bells whisky was 60p. Hot and cold bar snacks are advertised, including homemade pies, chilli and curry. On the Sunday lunchtime there were free snacks including cheese and biscuits, plus some rather greasy but enjoyable roast spuds.

Although the pub is now a lot smarter and the change in name a pretentious waste of time and money, it still retains much of the old atmosphere and good ale. Unfortunately there still seems to be a DJ at weekends, but the walk across the yard to the gents remains to make your return to the bar even more inviting on a cold, wet day.

SEND YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE REVIEWS TO HPP.

## Review



## How Stoke Newington has changed

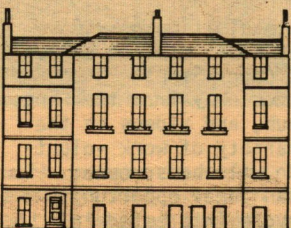
THE GROWTH OF STOKE NEWINGTON  
Published by J. Whitehead,  
55 Parliament Hill, London  
NW3 2TB £4.50

Do you know who the Stoke Newington Forgers were? What lies under the tennis courts in Clissold Park? All this, and more is revealed in a book which has just arrived in Centerprise and Hackney Public Libraries. Called 'The growth of Stoke Newington', it is a fascinating study of the area stretching north of Albion Road to Seven Sisters Road and the border with Haringey.

While being a work primarily aimed at secondary schools - to be used as a resource in urban studies - it is far from being academic in its approach. With the aid of a multitude of maps and line illustrations Mr Whitehead takes us chronologically through the changing environment, from pre-history right up to the present day. There are sections dealing with the geology of the district, the growth of Hackney and the development of Stoke Newington. Also bound into the book is a set of 3D maps, developed from a computer-drawn base, which help to bring alive the geological, topographical and local features of the area.

At the back of the work are a series of information sheets dealing with such aspects as cast iron, wrought iron and architectural detail - which are designed to be used as a practical aid in the study of the present urban landscape. Mr Whitehead throws out plenty of questions for pupils to ask themselves when looking at streets and the outside of buildings: he suggests the use of a planning exercise in the course of which a new building has to be designed to fit into the existing environment.

All in all, this book is a credit to the author and to those bodies - the Council Planning Committee, the Morell Fund and ILEA - which financed its publication. I have no doubt that 'The growth of Stoke Newington' will inspire more schools to tackle urban studies and lead to the building up of their own resource collections on the subject.



# THREATENED BOROUGH

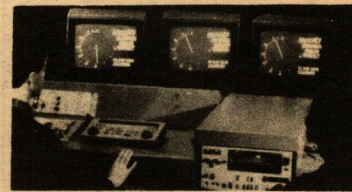
Anarres, Hackney's video collective recently produced a 15-minute publicity tape for the borough council.

"Hackney: Borough under Threat" was completed in three weeks as part of the Council's "bum deal" public relations campaign. The tape follows on from another Anarres project, when the group made a video of urban decay in Hackney to be shown at Parliament during the rate legislation debates.

"Borough under Threat" has been shown at public meetings and occasionally to community groups. Anarres would like it to be exhibited on a wider scale. Some members of the public have complained about the expense of producing a video when cuts are threatening services. Environment Secretary Patrick Jenkin used the same line in Parliament recently when he questioned why "Britain's poorest borough" could afford expensive media productions. The video cost £5,000. However the arguments miss the point that a well distributed video can reach and inform a wider audience than just political activists. Councils up and down the country are using video for this purpose. The

critics also ignore the merits of the tape.

"Borough under Threat" is a straightforward catalogue of council services that may be lost under the government's proposed expenditure cuts. It starts with a snappy visual introduction to Hackney history, illustrated with old photographs, scenes of urban life and sweeping aerial views.



Among the services celebrated are maintenance of 46,000 dwellings, 1/2 million meals-on-wheels per year and road, sewer and drain repairs. Did you know for example, that council laundry and bath facilities were used 200,000 times last year?

Clever graphics explain the workings of the reduced government spending targets and show the effect of rate capping. Two Greek Town Hall pillars represent "revenue" and "spending". As the rate support contribution sinks on the revenue side, the government is also imposing a cap on the

spending side. This makes it almost impossible to maintain present services. Penalties for exceeding the cap will reduce revenue even further. The revenue/spending pillars become so lopsided that it is hard to see why the cartoon Town hall doesn't collapse.

The film also takes on the myths of local government 'overspending' and that this drains away funds from businesses. In fact local government is already spending a lower proportion of money before the cuts, and included in their services are hidden subsidies for businesses worth £4 billion. The script says that the government is taking on dictatorial powers and is aiming its cuts selectively at a small number of Labour-controlled inner-city boroughs.

The most creative sequence shows a blue PACperson blob gobbling up council services and initiatives. In one particularly disturbing scene, a productive Trojan print-worker is consumed by the blue meanie. I hope he recovered from the experience. More seriously, the inventory of lost or restricted services is endless: 7 libraries will be closed, 11 children's homes, home help charges will be introduced, laundrettes cut back, grants to community groups will diminish and lastly free bus passes will come under threat.

Towards the end, the video cuts to an interview with the Leader. Anthony Kendall explains: "There are two kinds of council services: the ones people moan about and the ones they take for granted." "Borough under Threat" isn't a call to the barricades, but an educative tool to alert people to the dangers and likely effects of the government's legislation. Kendall continues: "People have to take notice, or those services may not be there for much longer. If we lose this battle there are parts that may not reappear."

Through effective selection and editing, Anarres succeed in recording scenes in Hackney without overdramatising or trivialising them. It is worth seeing too to gain a different perspective on the borough (especially the aerial shots, which were taken from a streetlight changing lift).

Anarres' Max Manciewicz told me that the council seemed pleased with "Borough under Threat". "The idea of the video was to make people aware of what was happening to them. If it does its job, it should convince people that there's something worth fighting for," he said.

• Anarres are setting up courses in video production, beginning with editing skills, at their Bradbury Street suite. If you would like to find out more ring Anarres at: 249 9212.

Photo: Peta Barker



## Review

JACKSON'S LANE THEATRE COMPANY

KLEINZEIT

A new play, "KLEINZEIT", adapted from the novel by Russell Hoban, is being performed by the JACKSON'S LANE THEATRE COMPANY around North London this month. The company has a reputation for successfully staging difficult and often enigmatically complex productions, which have, in the past, included the Chinese legend, "MONKEY," Milton's "PARADISE LOST," and "GULLIVER'S TRAVELS".

Here, the handling of "KLEINZEIT" is similarly compelling, balancing the linguistic richness of the original text, with vigorous comedy, mime and music.

The play concerns an advertising executive who is fired because of his suggestions for a Bonzo Toothpaste Commercial, experiences pain from A to B, and goes into hospital to have his hypotenuse seen to ("Do you pee in two streams?" "When my underwear's been twisted up all day, you know.") A true stage rarity, "KLEINZEIT" puts fantasy and absurdity before documentary realism, allows non-humans to speak, (Death, God Underground, and Hospital are all major characters), yet never once lapses into claptrap or pretentiousness, and even has a plot.



# WHAT'S ON

## Theatre

### LITTLE ANGEL

14 Dagmar Passage, Cross St  
Islington, N1  
226 1787

The bewitched baobab tree  
An old farmer is plagued by  
an evil creature living in  
a baobab tree, and is  
helped by the animals of  
the bush (wkends at 3pm)

Boola bear (for 3-6s) a  
polar bear who hated the  
cold (3, 10 march) at 11)

Jungle treasure & The Plug  
(Saturdays from 17 March  
at 11am)

Tickets: 11am - £1.50 adult,  
£1 child. 3pm - £2.25, adult  
£1.50 child

INNER CITY THEATRE COMPANY:  
Their new show "It's my party  
(and I'll cry if I want to)"  
is currently on tour in the  
Hackney and Islington area.  
Described as a farce set in  
a clothing factory in 1963,  
the play examines the rela-  
tionship between three girls  
and three guys "as they  
boogie their way through a  
working week while the boss  
is away with a hernia!"  
Although we do not have a

list of dates the show is  
worth looking out for;  
Inner City Theatre can be  
contacted at the Ufton Comm-  
unity Centre, 12 Ufton Road,  
N1 5BX. Tel 249 1711.

### THEATRE ROYAL

Gerry Raffles Square, E15  
534 0310

Two can play A couple living  
in Jamaica decide they want  
to start a new life in USA,  
but trying to do so leads to  
a whole chain of trouble.  
From March 7 at 7.30pm to  
March 31. Seats £1-£5.

Breakneck - the hanging of  
Ruth Ellis: from April 5.

Variety nights Sunday 18  
March at 8pm. Hosted by  
Kate Williams. Seats £2 -  
£5

## Music

Islington Arts Factory  
Vergers Cottage  
2 Parkhurst Rd, N7  
607 0561

The factory holds regular  
classes in dance and music.  
Dance classes include  
Halloway stretch, tap, jazz

acrobatics and circus  
tumbling, ballet and Arabic.  
Music: vocal, keyboard, jazz  
band, scratch orchestra,  
guitar and vocal.

Class fees 50p for under 18s,  
individual class £2.

Junior factory holds classes  
in ballet, stage and dance  
theatre. 30p per class,  
40p for Saturday workshops.

## Other events

Anti-apartheid month of  
action to end British  
collaboration with  
apartheid.  
24 March: demonstration  
at 11am at Hackney Town  
hall, march to S Africa  
house for mass picket  
10 March: call to action-  
workshops and discussions,  
Adelaide Centre, Adelaide  
St, W1.

Trade unions and the fight  
against racism. Conference  
on 24 March, 10--4.30pm  
Friends House, Euston Road,  
NW1. For trade unionists.  
£2 per delegate; run by  
Liberation, the anti-  
imperialist, anti-racist  
organisation. Contact  
Liberation 313 Caledonian Rd  
N1.

Focus on the black contri-  
bution to culture and civil-  
isation Film shows,  
lectures, book display &  
exhibitions at Hackney Town  
Hall on 31 March, 1, 2, 3,  
April, admission 50p.  
Pageant & disco 31 March  
£1.50b

Further information:  
254 5120, 241 0097

### Democracy day

29 March: national rally for  
local democracy, jobs and  
services. March across  
London, rally in Central Hall  
bands, races, street theatre  
petition to Downing St.  
Jointly organised by TUC  
& Local Government Campaign  
Unit.

### Women's Art Therapy Group

The group will explore what  
it means to be brought up  
in a patriarchal society  
and how this has affected  
us, both individually and  
collectively. No artistic  
skills necessary. The  
group will run for 2 hours  
weekly for about 15  
sessions. Reduced rates for  
the unemployed.  
Phone 254 2493 for further  
details.

### WOMEN TRADE UNIONISTS:

Special education courses  
are being held at Shoreditch  
Town Hall on March 26/27/28  
10am to 3.30pm. Further  
information from Maggie Foy  
or Lucy de Groot at Hackney  
Trade Union Support Unit,  
34 Dalston Lane, E8.  
Telephone 249 3086.

On MARCH 29, all day, there  
is a second STOP THE CITY  
demonstration taking place.  
This is to protest against  
the financing of war, and  
the exploitation of Third  
World resources, by all big  
business concerns.  
DON'T MISS IT!

**BON • TON • ROULET**  
**PEGASUS**   
 109 Green Lanes N16. 226-5930.

★ **MARCH BANDSTAND** ★

MONDAY 5th	<b>MINISTRY OF SOUND</b>	£1.00
MONDAY 12th	<b>'HI-JINX!'</b> <small>'Seven Piece, All Woman Afro/High Life Dance Band'</small>	£1.00
MONDAY 19th	<b>DANNY ADDLER BAND</b>	£1.00
MONDAY 26th	<b>* HI-JINX *</b>	£1.00
TUESDAY 20th	<b>JACK PINE QUINTET</b> <small>'Be-Bop' Mainstream &amp; All that jazz!</small>	£1.00
WEDNESDAY 7th	<b>REACTORS</b>	£1.00
WEDNESDAY 14th	<b>* JO-ANN KELLY *</b> <small>'Rock, Blues &amp; Soul'</small>	£1.00
WEDNESDAY 21st	<b>REACTORS</b>	£1.00
WEDNESDAY 28th	<b>* JO-ANN KELLY *</b>	£1.00
THURSDAY 1st	<b>* EXOCETTS *</b> <small>'Nine-Piece, Motown &amp; Soul'</small>	£1.00
THURSDAY 8th	<b>HANK WANGFORD</b>	£2.50
THURSDAY 15th	<b>'YES SIR!'</b> <small>'Large Jump, Jive, Boogie Band'</small>	£1.00
THURSDAY 22nd	<b>HANK WANGFORD</b>	£2.50
THURSDAY 29th	<b>EXOCETTS</b>	£1.00
FRIDAY 2nd	<b>JUICE ON THE LOOSE</b>	£2.00
FRIDAY 9th	<b>* NORTH SIDE RHYTHM N'BLUES ENSEMBLE *</b> <small>'12 Piece Outfit ... Thoroughly Recommended!'</small>	£2.00
FRIDAY 16th/23rd/30th	<b>JUICE ON THE LOOSE</b>	£2.00
SATURDAYS	<b>BIG CHIEF</b> <small>Featuring ART THEMEN (sax) TONY REEVES (Bass) MICK JACQUES (guitar)</small>	£1.50
SUNDAY 4th/11th	<b>IVORY COASTERS</b>	£1.50
SUNDAY 18th	<b>CAYENNE</b>	£2.00
SUNDAY 25th	<b>* JULIAN BAHULA'S JAZZ AFRIKA *</b>	£2.00
<b>SUNDAY LUNCHTIME JAZZ — 12.30 - 2.00 p.m.</b>		<b>50p admission</b>
11th/25th	<b>JACK PINE QUINTET</b>	
Doors open at 8.30 and most bands want to start by 9.15 - please give the musicians your support by coming early. Reduced admission most nights for claimants/students producing UB40/student union card. No reduction for latecomers.		
<b>music every night</b> Manor House Tube. 141 - 171 Buses.		

### ADVERTISEMENTS

ADVERTISEMENT

# CHATS PALACE

## HOMERTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

42 BROOKSEY'S WALK E.9. 986 6714

## March Calendar

Important: As Chats Palace has a club licence all users of the building must be members or their guests.

Sun Noon	4	Lunchtime Jazz in the bar with Ruthie Smith's Toot Sweet. 50p. Children free.
Wed 8.30pm	7	Pub Night in the bar with Tony Locantro, plus guest performers. Free.
Fri 7pm	9	*Tropic Music Enterprises present an evening of dub, music, poetry. £3/£1.50 unwaged.
Sat 8pm	10	Chats Palace presents a Barn Dance with Rose and Shamrock. £2/£1 unwaged.
Sun Noon	11	Lunchtime Jazz with The Rae James Quintet. 50p. Children free.
Wed	14	Pub Night in the bar. Free.
Fri 7.30pm	16	Youth Night. £1.
Sat 8pm	17	Inner City Theatre Company present "It's My Party (And I'll Cry If I Want To)". £2/£1 unwaged
Sun Noon	19	Lunchtime Jazz with Jazz Standards. 50p. Children free.
Wed 8.30pm	21	Pub Night in the bar. Free.
Thu 8pm	22	"Trade Secrets" by The Women's Theatre Group. £2/£1 unwaged.
Fri 8pm	23	*Hackney CND presents The Touch and The Four Minute Wonders. £2/£1 unwaged.
Sat 8pm	24	Chats Palace Bands' Night with Primitive Speech, Popular History of Signs and Cut Loose. £2/£1 unwaged.
Sun Noon	25	Lunchtime Jazz with The Simon Purcell Quartet featuring Mike Lockheart. 50p. Children free.
Wed	28	Pub Night in the bar. Free.
Sat 8pm	31	Latest cabaret extravaganza with H.A.D.A. and Chats Arkestra. £2/£1 unwaged.

\*Indicates outside hirer

**THE RIO CINEMA**  
 107 Kingsland High St, E8  
 Tel: 254 6677

**FEATURES (FRIDAYS TO WEDNESDAYS)**

**CHRISTINE**  
 6.00

**THE SECOND AWAKENING OF CHRISTA KLAGES**  
 8.25

**Carry Graham Home**  
 7.00

**THE LEOPARD**  
 7.10

**LIANNA**  
 A sensual, tender and provocative love story

**THURSDAYS + MATINEES + SPECIAL EVENTS**

**SUNDAY 4 (MATINEE)**  
 HARTVILLE (US 1978) dir ROBERT ALTMAN (197) 2.15  
 Caroline Chapple, David Carraway, 14  
 Altona's epic on music and politics in  
 Middle America.

**THURSDAY 8 (MATINEE)**  
 WILD STYLE (US 1982) dir Charles Abrahams  
 Rudy Popping, Rocking and  
 Breaking in the Bronx.  
 ALL TICKETS HALF PRICE

**THURSDAY 8 (EVENING)**  
 BURPING AN ILLUSION (US 1982) dir Michael Shuman (197) 00  
 WILD STYLE (US 1982) dir Charles Abrahams (197) 0.00

**SUNDAY 11 (MATINEE)**  
 MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON (US 1949) Frank Capra 2.00  
 Capra's optimistic saga of the political  
 process. (C)  
 BEING THERE (US 1979) dir Hal Ashby (197) 8.30  
 Peter Sellers as the President's gardener  
 in the adaptation of Jerry Seinfeld's novel.

**THURSDAY 18 (MATINEE)**  
 EAST OF EDEN (US 1955) dir Elia Kazan  
 James Dean's major role as a  
 neglected teenager.  
 ALL TICKETS HALF PRICE

**THURSDAY 18 (EVENING)**  
 THE BLUES (US 1983) dir Louis Malle  
 WITH LIVE PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT  
 BY THE BLUES TRIO (US 1983)  
 dir Walter Lang. Starring Katherine  
 Hepburn & Spencer Tracy  
 SEE OVER FOR DETAILS

**THURSDAY 18 (MATINEE)**  
 STALKER (USSR 1979) dir Andrei Tarkovsky  
 Tarkovsky's intelligent science fiction fable

**THURSDAY 22 (MATINEE)**  
 ROMEO AND JULIET (US 1968) dir Franco Zeffirelli (197) 00  
 The original, best film story

**THURSDAY 22 (EVENING)**  
 IT'S ALIVE (US 1974) dir Larry Cohen  
 Debut baby terrorizes Los Angeles  
 CORRELLA versus THE TUNG (Japan 1983) dir  
 CORRELLA goes on a rampage of destruction  
 wrecking cities and killing thousands

**SUNDAY 26 (MATINEE)**  
 DIABLO MYSTRE (France 1978) dir Jean YVES  
 Surpr. multiple stories of suspense  
 JULIA ET JIM (France 1961) dir Francois Truffaut (197) 4.10

**THURSDAY 28 (MATINEE)**  
 THE TEMPTER (US 1960) dir David Jarman  
 David Jarman's music interpretation of  
 Shakespeare  
 ALL TICKETS HALF PRICE

**THURSDAY 28 (EVENING)**  
 DANCE ENSEMBLE (USSR)  
 Live performance of traditional  
 Russian music  
 MOSCOW DISTRICTS (USSR)  
 PROGRAMME: 8.15  
 SEE OVER FOR DETAILS



# LET'S CHANGE 1984

## FOR TENANTS

1984 could go down as the year that Hackney's tenants finally took control of their own housing services - and ended the system which for too long has deprived them of their right to decent homes.

**IN SHOREDITCH, TENANTS AND BUILDING WORKERS HAVE TAKEN OVER ST. JOHN'S AREA BASE. THEY BELIEVE THAT TOGETHER THEY CAN IMPROVE THINGS.**

**THEY NEED YOUR SUPPORT!** For further details ring The Federation of Hackney Tenants Associations on 739 2147 ...above all, join your local TA in **FIGHTING FOR A BETTER HACKNEY!**



### HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Perhaps this issue of HPP is the first one you've ever seen. Perhaps you've bought the odd copy in the past, but never regularly. Perhaps you are a devoted monthly reader (there are some!).

Whatever you are, did you know that you can help write or produce the next issue? All you have to do is come to our open editorial meeting, which will be held in Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8 at 8pm on **TUESDAY 20 MARCH.**

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders, and no one is paid by the paper.

- Take out a subscription to HPP and guarantee regular delivery! Just send a cheque/PO for £3.30 for twelve issue subscription to Hackney People's Press, c/o Trojan, 10a Bradbury Street, N16. Please make cheques payable to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS. Please add a donation if you can afford it!

Subscription only \_\_\_\_\_

Donation of \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Printed and published by Hackney People's Press, c/o Trojan, 10a Bradbury Street, London N16 8JN. Telephone 01-806 9211 (evenings and weekends).

POSTER OUTSIDE THE OCCUPIED HOUSING REPAIRS BASE.

Picture: Ian Priddey.

## TRANSPORT

### MORE EXPENSIVE, LESS FREQUENT

Londoners are in danger of losing the control over their transport system which they currently exercise through the GLC. Under the government's London Regional Transport Bill a new Board would be appointed solely by the Secretary of State for Transport.

Given the differing views of the government and the GLC it is likely that LT services will be sold off and contacted out. The future of pensioners passes is also in doubt. Jobs are at risk, and there will be big fares increases and service cuts.

CAPITAL, the transport campaign, have issued a report on the likely effect of the cuts. In the report CAPITAL explains that the government has already announced a £90m target subsidy for London Transport in 1984/5. This is less than half the figure assumed in LT and GLC budget estimates.

According to LT, the £90 revenue subsidy target could be met by raising fares 27% and cutting 5 million bus miles. Such an increase in fares and reduction in services would clearly lead to the spiral of decline which existed prior to 1981 when the current County Hall administration took office: higher fares + service reductions = less passengers = less revenue

The occupation by tenants and workers together of the St John's area maintenance base goes on. Support has come in from all the Council unions, local tenants associations, tenants federations and associations from other parts of London and the rest of the country and many Councillors. The occupation is now being carried out by a 24 hour rota of tenants.

The workers from the Direct Labour Organisation are now working normally, with jobs being passed to them by the District Office and negotiations are taking place to improve the service in the interests of the tenants.

These negotiations are now at a tricky stage. Housing Chair John Bloom has said that he is personally sympathetic to many of the demands that the tenants and the DLO workers are asking, and he and they agreed to draw up a statement of intent. This will cover the way in which the base handles repairs, finance and the involvement of tenants in running the base. The Federation of Hackney Tenants associations has not yet decided its position on this statement of intent.

= even higher fares and further service reductions. Locally, the 236 bus route would become an endangered species.



The report says revenue support cuts would have other social effects. Many passengers who ceased using public transport would switch to private vehicles.

- Peak period car traffic would increase 2-3%
- Congestion in central London would increase 2%
- Road accidents would increase, possibly by as much as 3,000 per year, at a cost to the community of £10m in damage, hospitalisation and loss of output.

Using Department of Transport cost analysis methods, CAPITAL estimate that the £90m transport supplement grant level would cost London an additional £33m. The Tories' answer to urban decay is to turn the inner-city into a car park.

# St John's still strong

But the tenants association say that they had an assurance before the workforce returned to normal working that repairs coming from the St John's estate would not be blocked by middle management at the District Office. They say that this has not occurred. Terry Robinson, the secretary of the Federation, told HPP that at least three emergency repairs had not been dealt with quickly. These included emergency boarding up after a break-in, and a heating repair for a pensioner in distress.

The Federation and the workforce are also asking for an independent enquiry into the alleged overcharging by sub-contractors for work done on the estate. In a sample of 12 jobs they investigated themselves, they concluded that two were in fact fair prices for the work done, in two further cases no work had been done at all (although the job had been paid for) and in no less than eight cases overcharging had occurred. The Hackney Law Centre, on behalf of the TA and the workforce, has

written to the Council with details of this sample. The Council is known to have offered to take on an internal enquiry with an independent surveyor, but the tenants and workforce want a full public enquiry, chaired by a barrister.

Many fine speeches have been made supporting the direct action taken by the workforce and the tenants at the St John's base; what is needed is for these to be translated into positive action, to bring the service under proper democratic control, and to give the level of services to tenants that they pay for in their rents.

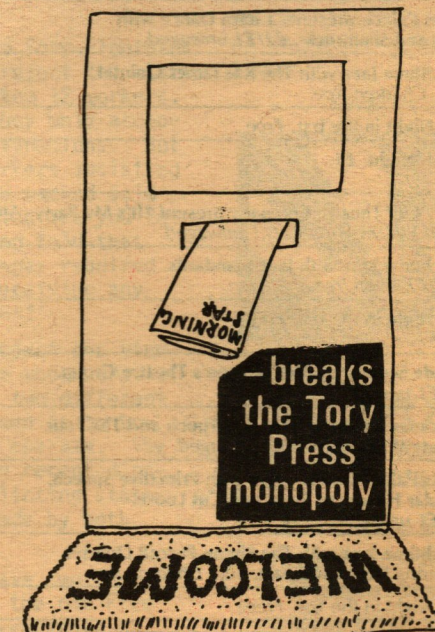
As the Federation said in an early statement: "The rot has got to stop. We have suffered gross mismanagement, corruption, abuse of our rents and a lack of will to deal with the problems for far too long. Hackney has to change."

To send support to the occupation contact St John's base, Cherbury Street, N1. 739 6155.



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